

REMARKS

Claims 8-17 remain pending this application, claims 8 and 13 having been amended and claims 1-7 and 18-23 having been cancelled without prejudice by this paper.

Examiner's rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and applicants' traversal thereof

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 13 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,332,013 (Sugita). In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 8 to state "transporting a substrate carrier via a conveyor that moves past an arm having an end effector coupled to the arm" and claim 13 to state "substantially matching a velocity of the end effector to a velocity at which the conveyor moves past the arm". Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments clearly distinguish these claims from the unmanned carriage 30 of Sugita which has robot 31 coupled to the unmanned carriage as shown in FIG. 1 such that the unmanned carriage cannot move past the robot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 13.

Examiner's rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and applicants' traversal thereof

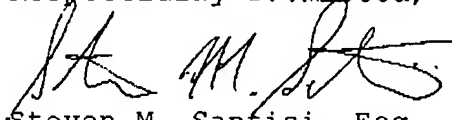
The Examiner has rejected claims 9, 10, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Sugita or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Sugita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,439,822 (Kimura). The Examiner has

also rejected claims 11, 12, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugita or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Sugita. Applicants traverse these rejections.

As discussed above, Sugita fails to teach or suggest all of the features of amended claims 8 and 13. Further, Applicants submit that Kimura fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Sugita reference. As such, claims 9, 10, 11, and 12 which depend from independent claim 8, and claims 14, 15, 16, and 17 depend from independent claim 13 are submitted as being allowable over the Sugita and Kimura references, alone or in combination.

Applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same. Applicants request a one month extension of time for submission of this Amendment. Please charge the one month extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due regarding this Amendment. However, if any additional fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

Respectfully Submitted,


Steven M. Santisi, Esq.
Registration No. 40,157
Dugan & Dugan, PC
Attorneys for Applicants
(914) 332-9081

Dated: March 21, 2006
Tarrytown, New York